

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 08603 031609Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02 DODE-00
DOE-15 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 /111 W
-----008686 031638Z /41

P 031602Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6365
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 08603

VIENNA FOR USIAEA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, US, EEC, BE, FR
SUBJECT: US-EURATOM RENEGOTIATION: FRENCH EXPRESS WILLING-
NESS TO SUPPLY HEU TO BELGIANS

REF: TOKYO 7958

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM TWO INDEPENDENT SOURCES IN GOB
FAMILIAR WITH US-EURATOM RENEGOTIATION ISSUE INFORMATION
THAT FRENCH HAVE OFFERED TO SUPPLY BELGIUM'S ENRICHED
URANIUM REQUIREMENTS IF US SUPPLY CUTOFF CONTINUES.

2. SOURCE IN MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS TOLD US MAY 2
THAT FRENCH HAVE OFFERED BELGIANS ASSURED SUPPLY OF HEU
ONCE EXISTING SUPPLY OF US-FURNISHED HEU IS EXHAUSTED.

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(OUR SOURCE SAID THAT BELGIUM HAS SUFFICIENT HEU ON HAND
TO MEET NEEDS FOR ONE YEAR.) THIS INFORMATION WAS IN-
DEPENDENTLY CONFIRMED BY MFA DIRECTOR FOR NUCLEAR AFFAIRS
HERPELS ON MAY 3, WHO ADDED THAT PRICE ASKED BY FRENCH TO
SUPPLANT US ENRICHMENT SERVICES WAS QUOTE PROHIBITIVE
UNQUOTE. BOTH OUR SOURCES EXPRESSED STRONG HOPE THAT US
ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE ABLE TO DISPLAY SUFFICIENT FLEXI-

BILITY ON RENEGOTIATION QUESTION TO AVOID NECESSITY FOR BELGIUM TO TURN TO FRANCE AS PRINCIPAL SUPPLIER OF ENRICHMENT SERVICES.

3. COMMENT. WHILE WE NOTE FROM REFTEL THAT EURODIF IS APPARENTLY OFFERING ENRICHMENT SERVICES TO JAPAN FOR 1980-85 PERIOD, WE CANNOT CONFIRM THAT EURODIF WOULD BE SOURCE OF REPORTED ENRICHMENT SERVICES TO BELGIUM, OR WHETHER ENRICHED URANIUM WOULD COME FROM EXISTING FRENCH STOCKS.

4. WE WOULD ALSO CAUTION THAT INFORMATION VOLUNTEERED TO US BY BELGIAN SOURCES ON FRENCH INTENTIONS MAY BE NO MORE THAN A PLOY TO FORCE A MORE FORTHCOMING US POSITION ON THE RENEGOTIATION ISSUE. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT QUESTION OF FRENCH INTENTIONS DESERVES SERIOUS ATTENTION. EURODIF IS A COMMERCIAL FIRM AND IT CANNOT BE EXCLUDED THAT ONE FRENCH GOAL IN PROLONGING RENEGOTIATION CONTROVERSY IS TO WREST A LARGER SHARE OF THE IMPORTANT EUROPEAN ENRICHMENT MARKET FROM THE U.S. OLSEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, URANIUM, NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRUSSE08603
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780188-1011
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780599/aaaadgng.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b02db2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 TOKYO 7958
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2809918
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-EURATOM RENEGOTIATION: FRENCH EXPRESS WILLING- NESS TO SUPPLY HEU TO BELGIANS
TAGS: ENRG, US, BE, FR, EEC, EURATOM
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b02db2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014